

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. Ward Says Democrats Ducked Chance to Remove Unfunded, Unfair Mandates on Towns, Taxpayers**



HARTFORD – House Republican Leader Robert M. Ward, of North Branford today assailed Democratic leaders for refusing to alleviate the economic impact of unfunded mandates on state taxpayers and municipalities when they rejected a proposal to just study the issue.

“The refusal by Democrats to simply conduct a non-partisan review and pull back the curtain on unfunded mandates is the height of hypocrisy. I find it ironic they take this stand at a time when our activist Attorney General is planning to sue Congress over what he deems is an unfunded liability in the form of the No Child Left Behind Act.”

He added, “The majority party has consistently bemoaned these onerous mandates that Gov. Rell has rightly focused her reform efforts on. Yet when given the chance to do something about the problem, they blink.”

The joint Legislative Management Committee yesterday voted 11-10 against Gov. Rell’s proposal to conduct an extensive review of all the mandates dictated to the state and its municipalities, and how that affects the state’s tax and spending policies. Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has announced he intends to sue the federal government over the NCLB act because he claims it is an unfunded burden on states’ educational systems.

State Rep. Pamela Sawyer of Bolton said, “It’s unfortunate that these Democratic leaders have turned a deaf ear on our towns that are begging for mandate relief. So the question is, do they support unfunded mandates?”

Numerous local elected officials and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities complain that they are forced to raise taxes to meet the unfunded mandates requirements.